

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an alkali metal carboxylate salt brine contaminated with chloride ion, comprising the steps of admixing such the contaminated brine with a solution of a silver salt, ~~especially silver nitrate,~~ causing silver chloride to be formed in a reaction mixture and separating the silver chloride from the residual brine.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the brine comprises cesium or cesium and potassium as the alkali metal(s) and formate, acetate or other species as the salt anion.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2, comprising the use of a silver nitrate,~~ wherein the silver salt is silver nitrate and the concentration of the solution containing is at least 800g/l AgNO₃.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3, wherein by-product alkali metal nitrate is removed after,~~ wherein the silver salt is silver nitrate and the method further comprises the steps of cooling the reaction mixture, preferably to about 0°C then removing by-product alkali metal nitrate.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, carried out such that the residual brine has a specific gravity of not less than 1.6.
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the silver salt is silver nitrate and silver nitrate is used in a quantity of from 95 to 112% of stoichiometric.
7. (Currently Amended) A method of use of an alkali metal carboxylate salt brine, comprising the recovery of used or concentrated brine contaminated with chloride ion, treating the recovered brine with a solution of a silver salt, ~~especially silver nitrate,~~ causing silver chloride to be formed, separating the silver chloride from the brine, and re-using the brine.
8. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the silver salt is silver nitrate.

9. (New) A method according to claim 2, wherein the silver salt is silver nitrate and the concentration of the solution is at least 800g/l AgNO_3 .
10. (New) A method according to claim 4, wherein the cooling step comprises cooling the reaction mixture to about 0°C.
11. (New) A method according to claim 2, wherein the silver salt is silver nitrate and the method further comprises the steps of cooling the reaction mixture then removing by-product alkali metal nitrate.
12. (New) A method according to claim 11, wherein the cooling step comprises cooling the reaction mixture to about 0°C.
13. (New) A method according to claim 2, carried out such that the residual brine has a specific gravity of not less than 1.6.
14. (New) A method according to claim 2, wherein the silver salt is silver nitrate and silver nitrate is used in a quantity of from 95 to 112% of stoichiometric.
15. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein the silver salt is silver nitrate.